

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 16-36, and 40-43 are pending in the application, with claim 16 being the independent claim. Claims 1-15, 37-39 and 44-45 have been canceled. Claims 32-33 have been amended. Support for the claim amendments may be found in the original claims and throughout the specification. Thus, no new matter is added by way of these amendments, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

Objections to the Specification

The specification has been amended to remove embedded hyperlinks.

In reply to the Examiner's objection to the disclosure regarding the lack of embedded sequence identifiers, Applicants submit herewith courtesy copies of a Preliminary Amendment filed on March 4, 2004, and a Supplemental Preliminary Amendment filed on March 5, 2004, which contain amendments to the specification that insert the referenced sequence identifiers. Applicants also submit herewith copies of the USPTO date-stamped return postcards indicating receipt of these Amendments by the

Office. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection to the specification in view of these Preliminary Amendments.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First and Second Paragraphs

Claims 32-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claims 32-35 also were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

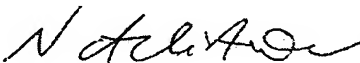
In view of the amendments of claims 32-33, to remove the recitation of "mutants, variants, and derivatives of the recombination sites of (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h) or (i) which retain the ability to undergo recombination," the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 are rendered moot.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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